

# Florida Board of Dentistry

## Message from the Chair

I am humbled to be elected yet again, as Chairman for 2014. I would like to express my gratitude to my fellow Board members, Board staff, Probable Cause Panel members, Sub-Committee members and Advisors for so generously devoting their time and expertise to the citizens of Florida and to our profession. We all are focused and share the same noble goal to "Protect the Public" and we stand selflessly together, united in this effort. The Board's most recent accomplishment was the revision, strengthening and updating of the rules on anesthesia. The current rules are posted on our website under: www.floridasdentistry.gov.

Published for public review, at our most recent Board of Dentistry meeting November, 2013 was the ten (10) year compiled report of violations that warranted disciplinary action. The top two continue to be – "Failure to maintain adequate patient records" (272 violations) and "Practicing below competent peer standards" (296 violations). With the currently required transition to electronic/digital records, and the Board's Task Force recommending the guidelines for minimal record content-soon to be finalized and published, I optimistically foresee the allegations of "Failure to keep adequate records" to rapidly become a violation of the past.

I cordially invite all of you to attend a future public meeting of the Florida Board of Dentistry. It is a great way to earn four (4) free hours of CDE credits per biennium, and to stay abreast of the changes in our profession I assure you that 2014 is going to be the best year yet!!

May God continue to bless all of you,

Joe



JoeThomas, DDS, MAGD, FICOI, FICD, FACD

#### **RENEWAL REMINDER**

Dentists, dental hygienists and dental labs: your renewal is approaching. Reminder postcards have been mailed and licenses must be renewed by February 28, 2014. The Department is requesting that courses be entered into CEBroker this year. For free access, visit www.ceATrenewal.com.

### Reporting Requirements

By Jack Wise, Esq., Assistant General Counsel, Prosecution Services

Although no dentist ever intends for this to happen, patient medical emergencies are an unfortunate reality that a practitioner may encounter during the course of his or her career. When such incidents transpire, dentists are understandably focused on ensuring that the affected patient receives timely medical assistance. However, it is important to note that a dentist's professional responsibilities don't end once the patient has left the office. Rules regulating the practice of dentistry in Florida impose specific reporting requirements applicable to all adverse occurrences, regardless of the degree of harm ultimately suffered by the patient.

Rule 64B5-14.006, F.A.C., defines an adverse occurrence as any mortality that occurs during or as the result of a dental procedure, or any injury requiring hospitalization or emergency room treatment that occurs during or as a direct result of the use of certain anesthesia or sedation. Whenever a triggering event occurs, Rule 64B5-14.006, F.A.C., imposes an obligation upon the supervising dentist to notify the Board of Dentistry of the incident within 48 hours. Then the treating dentist must supplement that notification by submitting a full written report to the Board of Dentistry via registered mail within 30 days of the adverse occurrence. According to Rule 64B5-14.006(2),F.A.C., such written reports must include the following information: contact information for the patient, a detailed description of the dental procedure, a detailed description of the patient's preoperative physical condition, a detailed list and dosage of the drugs administered to the patient, a detailed description of the techniques utilized in administering the drugs, a detailed description of the adverse occurrence, and a list of all witnesses and their contact information. Additional details are contained within the Rule, which may be referenced through the Florida Board of Dentistry website.

Failure to timely submit the written report mandated by Rule 64B5-14.006(2), F.A.C. is a basis for disciplinary action by the Board of Dentistry. The Board of Dentistry's Probable Cause Panel specifically directed staff to publicize this Rule to remind dentists of their duties regarding adverse occurrences. All Florida-licensed dentists are strongly encouraged to review their procedures for handling patient medical emergencies. After all, no adverse occurrence should ever be made worse because of a failure to follow the rules.

#### NOVEMBER 15, 2013 BOARD MEETING RECAP

The Board of Dentistry meeting was held in Gainesville, Florida with senior dental students and dental hygiene students in attendance at the meeting. The Board reviewed 11 disciplinary cases, accepting seven settlement agreements, one waiver/default case, two voluntary relinquishments and approved continuances of several cases.

The Board also took action on three petitions for variance and waiver. There were several application/credentials reviews. For further details including minutes and audio of the meetings, please see the Board of Dentistry website at: www.floridasdentistry.gov.

A recording of the November 15, 2013 proceeding can be found at: http://www.floridasdentistry.gov/me etinginformation/ past-meetings/

2014 Meeting Dates & Locations: February 21, Tallahassee May 16, Jacksonville August 22, Orlando November 21, Ft. Lauderdale



Left to right: Carol Stevens, DDS; Tim Pyle, consumer member; Wade Winker, DDS; Cathy Cabanzon, RDH; Tony Martini; consumer member; Dan Gesek, DMD; Joe Thomas, DDS; Leonard Britten, DDS; Angie Sissine, RDH; Bill Kochenour, DDS; Robert Perdomo, DMD.

## Prescription Drug Monitoring Program Annual Report Released

The Department of Health has released the 2012-2013 Prescription Drug Monitoring Program Annual Report showing a 51 percent decrease in the number of individuals receiving prescriptions from five or more prescribers and five or more pharmacies in a 90-day period, an indicator of controlled substance abuse. Additionally the report documents that health care practitioner registration increased by 28 percent and utilization increased by 61 percent.

The Prescription Drug Monitoring Program, known as E-FORCSE® (Electronic-Florida Online Reporting of Controlled Substances Evaluation), was created by the 2009 Florida Legislature as part of an initiative to encourage safer prescribing of controlled substances and reduce drug abuse and diversion.

The PDMP reports that as of October 31, 2013, 4.3 percent of licensed dentists have registered to request patient advisory reports (PARs) and 55 percent of those registered dentists have requested a PAR. The complete 2012-2013 Prescription Drug Monitoring Program Annual Report is located at: www.eforcse.com.

